

April 24

* SEE STATE FINANCE REPORT #3
THE GENERAL APP. BILL

Amendments to CSHB 20

Several amendments to CSHB 20 are expected to be offered on the floor by members of the Appropriations Committee. Rep. Jim Rudd, chair of the Appropriations Committee, has said these amendments would not be subject to the rule, adopted by the Calendars Committee, that an amendment increasing an item of appropriations must contain an equal or greater reduction in one or more other items of appropriations.

Four amendments would increase the appropriations to institutions of higher education. The appropriations for the University of Texas of the Permian Basin would be increased from the current \$5,717,005 in CSHB 20 to \$14,509,984 for the biennium. This is a 5.7-percent reduction from the 1984-85 level of funding.

Appropriations for Texas A&M University at Galveston would be increased from the \$4,191,272 currently in CSHB 20 to \$10,465,392. This would establish funding at 33.7 percent below the level set for 1984-85.

Appropriations for East Texas State University would be increased from \$42,624,757 currently in CSHB 20 to \$43,895,551, which is a reduction of 18.6 percent from the 1984-85 level.

Appropriations for Texas Woman's University would be increased from \$60,649,629 currently in CSHB 20 to \$62,524,244, which is a reduction of 14.6 percent from the 1984-85 level.

Appropriations for Prairie View A&M University would be amended to state separate line items for purchased utilities and all other utilities expenses, rather than one line for purchased utilities only. The total appropriated to Prairie View A&M would not be changed.

Two amendments would be contingent on the passage of HB 1593, the fee bill which passed the House on April 23. Both would decrease appropriations from the General Revenue Fund and would increase appropriations from fee revenues by the same amount. The agencies affected would be the Air Control Board and the Department of Public Safety.

Other amendments may be offered to reflect several changes made by the Legislative Budget Office in estimates of expected income. Because of adjustments resulting from HB 72 in the state's matching contributions to the Teacher Retirement System, expenditures from the General Revenue Fund for TRS would be \$21.5 million less than stated in CSHB 20. A change in the estimates of expected income to the Operators and Chauffeurs Fund (No. 099) would increase income to the Department of Public Safety from that fund by about \$5 million over the amount state in CSHB 20, freeing the same amount of general-revenue income. The interest

from the oil-overcharge settlement, which had been considered as general revenue, must now by federal rule be appropriated directly to the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Community Affairs for reimbursement of overcharges. This adjustment reduces previously anticipated general revenue by more than \$2 million.